



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• HARTFORD, VERMONT 05057 •

HARTFORD • QUECHEE • WEST HARTFORD
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • WILDER

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May Meeting . . .

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th

POTLUCK SUPPER: Our annual business session will be preceded by our Second **Annual Potluck Supper** which will be at **6:00 P.M.** As usual, please bring a food dish to share with others and your own plate and utensils. As before, we will provide the drinks and cups.

**The meeting will be
Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 P.M.
at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ,
Route 14, Hartford Village.**

BUSINESS MEETING: The annual business session will begin at **7:00 P.M.** and will include the election of directors and officers and the necessary changes to our by-laws to reflect the revised structure of a separate Board of Directors in addition to our officers. The proposed organization will include a Board of five independent directors plus the Society's President and Treasurer. The other Society officers are the Vice-President and Secretary.

We hope to have a full slate to present to the membership and additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

SHOW AND TELL: With the business behind us, it will be time for fun. We will have a *Not Necessarily Historical Show and Tell*. Have you a hobby, craft or collectible to share with us? Maybe you have a "white elephant" which might prove entertaining, or old toy, book or photograph, a one-of-a-kind, or just about anything you would like to share with us.

As we bring one year to a close and prepare for our next, after a summer hiatus, your Directors, Officers and volunteers will be working toward next season's programming and continuing our work of maintaining and expanding our archives of historical artifacts.

TWIN STATE FRUIT COMPANY

Now that the Twin State Fruit sign is again visible in White River Junction, it is a reminder that very little is known about this business, which was here for many years, and which employed many Hartford families. All we have in the Historical Society is a small sign, and of course our wonderful resource, John St. Croix's book *Historical Highlights of Hartford* from which the following is taken: "In 1921 H. A. Perkins Company built a large warehouse on Railroad Row which they used for a grain and feed business for two years. They sold to the Vermont Warehouse Company who operated at that location until 1927. It was during that year that Twin State Fruit Corporation was organized and opened for business in this warehouse, specializing in fresh fruits and vegetables. From this small operation the company has expanded and now sells, in addition to the above, groceries, canned goods, frozen foods, candies and confections, wines and beer. The firm has a branch in Rutland, Vermont and a warehouse in West Lebanon, New Hampshire."

If anyone can add any information, please let us know.

COMING UP

At our first meeting of the new season – September 9, 1992 – we are pleased to have Allen Yale return and speak to us about the researching of his book *While The Sun Shines: Making Hay in Vermont 1787-1900*.

We were sorry the weather forecast on our March meeting date forced the cancellation of Mr. Yale's talk, disappointing many, but we are pleased that he is able to return in September.

AMELIA EARHART AND THE TWIN STATE AIRPORT

There has been renewed interest in Amelia Earhart in the news lately. We are fortunate to have been given two photographs of Miss Earhart when she visited here at the Twin State Airport in White River Junction. One photo is from Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Wright, showing his sister Mildred Jane, aged four,

presenting Miss Earhart with roses on October 5, 1933. The other, along with a picture of her plane, shows the "noted aviatrix" with Mrs. G. H. Miller and an unidentified lady. These two photos may have been taken in 1937, the year Miss Earhart disappeared. They are copies made from the originals owned by Dorothy Gushea, who took the photos.

The Twin State Airport, the former site of the Vermont State Fair, now Sykes Avenue in White River Jct., opened in 1929. A hard surfaced runway was built in 1934 or 1935. It ceased operations in 1950. For more information about it, see John St. Croix's book and our collection of *Landmark* articles. The photographs and copies of the front page of the *Landmark*, October 5, 1933 will be on display at the May meeting.

RECENT GIFTS:

Trustees, Methodist Church, White River Jct.: two adding machines, one dated 1925.

Town of Hartford Bicentennial Committee: records, minutes, scrapbook, pins, flags, cards made by 5th grade children and miscellaneous items of the celebration in Hartford.

Dorothy Gushea: Photographs, one of Amelia Earhart and Mrs. Miller, the other of Miss Earhart's plane.

Joan Holbrook: two photos of Walter O'Neill's home, 45 Maple Street, White River Jct., ca. 1888 and ca. 1900, and one of him with one of the first Cadillac cars sold at Miller Auto. 1911

Town of Hartford: Vermont School Reports, 1898, 1900, 1908, 1909-10, 1911-12; miscellaneous papers.

Helen Levenson: photograph of Directors of Windsor County YMCA, 1932, all Hartford men.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bradley: three postcards of Hartford scenes, miscellaneous papers from their collection.

William Luczynski: three photographs of White River ice jam, 1959.

Robert Leavitt: photocopies of items relating to Charles Bogle, 1935; newspaper clippings 1888-1939.

Quechee United Church of Christ: church flag, sewn by Gertrude Church.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Plattner: three postcards "Mr. & Mrs. Edmund C. Gilbert & Children"; West Main Street, White River Jct.; South Main Street, White River Jct.; all before 1927.

HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office: Room 110, Municipal Building, White River Jct.

Hours: By Appointment

Priscilla Gadzinski, *President*, 295-2364 • Mary Nadeau, *Vice President*, 295-2123

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of March, May, September and November at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Route 14 in Hartford Village.

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HARTFORD, VT 05047-0547